



METHYL BROMIDE

Agent Overview:	Methyl bromide, classified as a choking/pulmonary agent, can be a liquid or gas at room temperature. Methyl bromide is irritating and corrosive to the eyes, skin and respiratory tract. Exposure to methyl bromide may cause burning of the eyes, nose, and throat, dizziness, drowsiness, headache and nausea. Higher concentrations are narcotic and toxic to the central nervous system, resulting in blurred vision, mental confusion, numbness, tremors and speech defects. Severe exposure can result in cardiac arrhythmia, pulmonary edema, circulatory failure, toxicity to the blood, liver and kidneys; and death.
Lab Specimen Submittal:	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, Director DPHL; Christina Pleasanton, Deputy Director DPHL; or Tara Lydick, Chemical Terrorism Coordinator.
Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:	<u>Urine:</u> 25mL-50mL screw-cap container <u>Whole blood:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Three, 5 or 7 mL purple-top (EDTA) tubes (vacuum fill only) AND- One, 5 or 7 mL gray-top or green-top (vacuum fill only) AND- Two empty urine cups and two empty blood tubes for each lot # submitted.
Packaging Instructions:	<u>Urine:</u> freeze specimen upon collection and ship on dry ice; label specimens and package individually; wrap with absorbent material. <u>Whole blood:</u> place filled tubes in a shipping rack for stability, wrap the tubes in absorbent material, and secure with tape. Place the packaged tubes in a secondary unbreakable container. Specimens may be shipped cold but <i>must not</i> be frozen. <u>All:</u> wrap sample containers and layers with tamper-proof, waterproof forensic evidence tape initialed by collector, being careful not to cover the sample labels. Ship to DPHL as Biological Substance, Category B (Packing Instruction 650).
Receiving Specimens at DPHL:	Authorized specimens are received at the rear (loading dock) entrance of the laboratory. Submitters must present ID and have proper forms completed.
Handling of Specimens:	Chain of custody procedures must be followed. Urine specimens should be frozen upon collection.
Reporting Results:	Reference laboratory will notify DPHL as soon as possible. The Potential Exposure Call Log and Information form will provide information for notification of testing results outside of the DPHL.
Contact Information:	Jane Getchell, DrPH, Director DPHL, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage)